



DAVID IRONS

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Dear Community Members,

The Metropolitan King County Council faces a number of decisions in the coming months that will have an impact on the lives of all of us. I would like to personally request each of you to get involved by learning about these issues and voicing your concerns and comments about how proposed policies will affect you.

For instance, now being developed are revisions to the **Critical Areas and Stormwater regulations** that affect development of unincorporated properties. Also being compiled this spring is a list of **transportation projects** to be included in a funding request to voters in the tri-county Regional Transportation Investment District. To address King County's budget deficits, the county will ask voters to approve a four-year **Parks Maintenance Levy** at a special May 20 election. In a money-saving effort, I have proposed **cutting back the number of Councilmembers** from the current 13 to 9.

Government in a vacuum is not good government. We need your participation in order to ensure that the will of the people is reflected in the policies we enact. Don't wait for others to guide public policy. Your voice can and does get heard by local government. You can participate in several ways. It's easy and fast:

- Contact me directly: Phone: 206-296-1012 or E-mail: david.iron@metrokc.gov
- Meet with me personally at District Days open house events (see schedule on back).
- Contact other Councilmembers, County Executive and staff through the county operator: (206) 296-0100 or the county web site: www.metrokc.gov
- Learn more about issues and activities affecting District 12 residents on my web site: www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/members/d12/index.htm

Thank you for participating in our representative government. I look forward to hearing from you.



King County Council Committee Work

Growth Management & Unincorporated Areas

Natural Resources, Parks and Open Spaces (vice chair)

Regional Transit Committee

Regional Water Quality Committee

Transportation Committee

Regional Committee Memberships

Board of Health

Cedar River Council, co-chair

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District

Eastside Transportation Partnership

Growth Management Planning Council

Puget Sound Regional Council's Growth Management Policy Board

Critical Areas and Stormwater Ordinances

King County has begun a process to revise the county's environmental and stormwater regulations. Staff-proposed modifications are in response to state and federal regulations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Clean Water Act. The revisions also will incorporate relative changes proposed in 1998 to the Sensitive Areas Code and in 1999 to a new Site Alterations Ordinance (updating the clearing and grading ordinance). Many of you may have been involved with reviewing and commenting on these ordinances.

During January, the Department of Development and Environmental Services and the Department of Natural Resources and Parks conducted public meetings to gather comment on these staff proposals. Meetings were held in Seattle, Carnation, Issaquah, Enumclaw, Covington and Vashon Island. In response to these meetings, staff



received verbal testimony, e-mails and letters expressing support for the changes



and concerns with the impacts of the changes on rural landowners, farms and businesses. Staff currently is reviewing the public comments and suggestions and is preparing a second draft proposal.

Some of you have asked about additional community meetings on the second version before the ordinances are transmitted to the Executive. Originally, no additional comment period was contemplated. However, due to the large volume of comments and suggestions received, DDES has scheduled a public comment opportunity on the second version, due out on May 15, 2003. In addition, once the Executive submits his proposal to the Council, citizens will have another opportunity to testify at public hearings as part of the Council's review.

Many of you are meeting

with your friends and neighbors to discuss the impact of these changes. I understand that much of the public comment has been negative, with a strong message that the regulations are too strict. In response to these concerns, the proposed ordinances are currently being revised. Depending on the final version, these ordinances could have a significant impact on the use of your property and on future plans you may have for your property. Therefore, I encourage you to review the materials, determine how you will be affected, and provide your comments and suggestions to the staff and Councilmembers. Please continue to monitor the DDES website for updates at:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes/cao/>

Preserving and protecting our natural environment – while providing areas for work, homes and recreation – are essential to maintaining our quality of life in King County. Because of this, my staff and I constantly monitor the progress of these ordinances, and we will continue to do so throughout 2003. As the proposed ordinances move forward, I encourage you to share your thoughts, concerns and suggestions with me.

Parks

In response to funding shortfalls, the Executive and the King County Council worked with Parks staff last year to revise the mission, priorities and scope of the Parks Division. Staffing levels have been reduced, park and pool facilities have been transferred to various cities, and new programs have been developed to generate revenue. The county continues to face a deficit in 2004 and 2005, and for that reason the county is seeking additional funding sources for the parks system.

The Metropolitan Parks Task Force was created last year to review the parks system and make recommendations about potential funding sources. In February 2003, the task force recommended the County

ask voters to fund regional parks operations with a six-year operating levy in the amount of 5.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value on properties in King County. The task force also recommended that parks in the unincorporated urban area continue to be maintained using existing County revenues. The task force report can be viewed at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/mptf/>.

In mid-February, the County Executive submitted to the Council a proposed six-year operating levy of 5.0 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The Council, in March approved a four-year, 4.9-cent-per-\$1,000 levy to fund the continued and increased operation and maintenance of King

County's regional and rural parks, recreation facilities and community-based recreation programs. The measure also establishes a county parks citizens' oversight board to review and report on expenditures of levy proceeds. The levy will be before voters on the May 20 ballot.

The levy will raise an average of \$12 million annually and will equate to about \$14.70 per year for a home assessed at \$300,000. The increased costs for maintenance and operations refer to the administration of land acquired for regional trails, and to open space land acquired under the Conservation Futures levy. Read more about the Parks Levy at dnr.metrokc.gov/parks/levy.

BPA Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line

In 2002, I was surprised to learn that the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) would again study transmission line alternatives in the Hobart/Ravensdale area. The Kangley-Echo Lake project addresses limited transmission capacity and network reliability concerns in the Puget Sound region. A large winter storm could trigger blackouts if these problems are not remedied.

The federal agency previously had recommended a route through the Cedar River Watershed as the only realistic alternative for the new transmission line.

I have worked diligently and successfully to show BPA that other alternatives are unacceptable and would negatively impact hundreds of people, including the removal of many homes. After a series of public

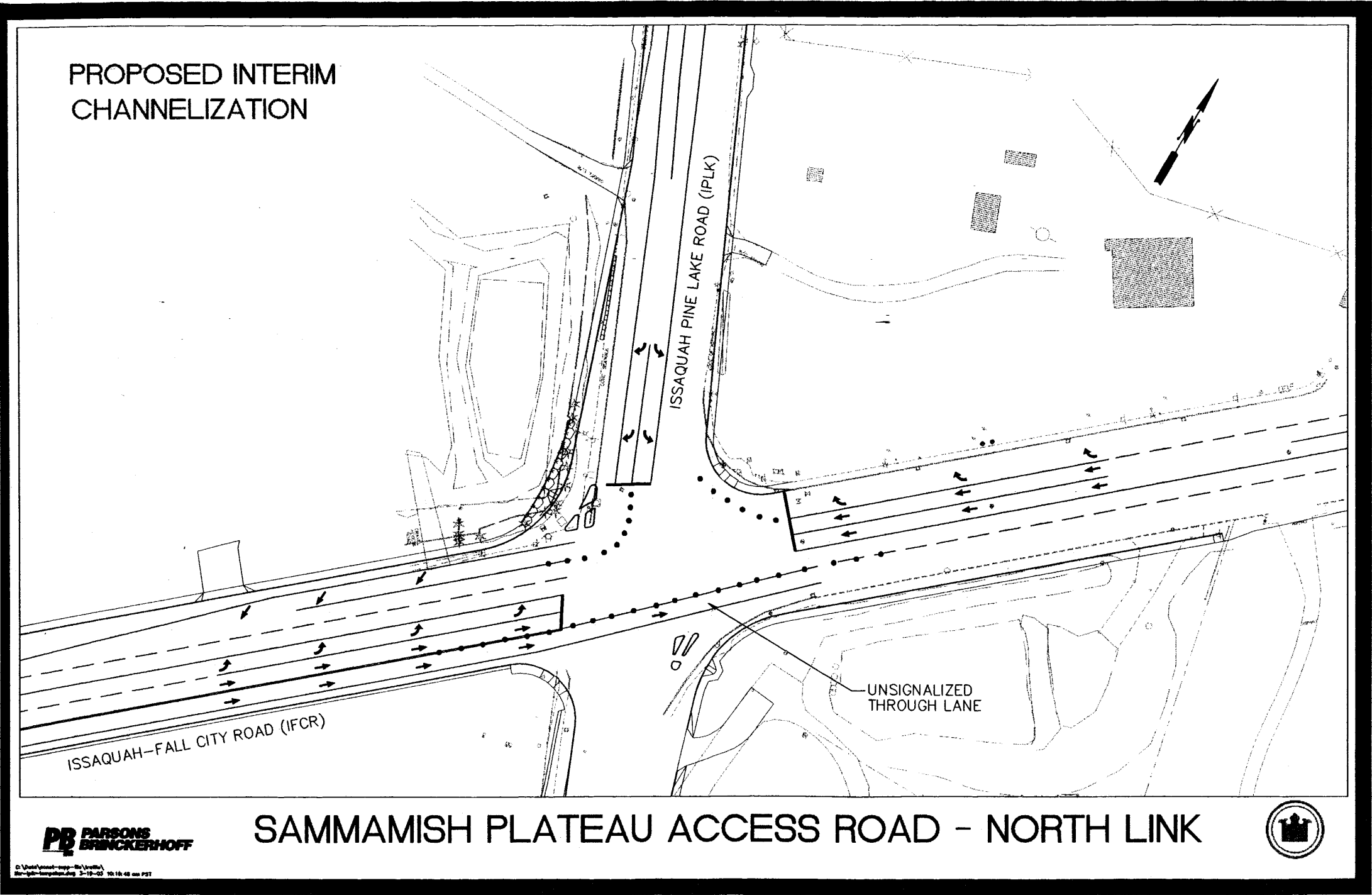
meetings and significant study, BPA recently issued a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) on the Kangley-Echo Lake Transmission Line Project. The DSEIS indicated that a Cedar River Watershed route still is the preferred alternative. BPA now seems likely to choose the watershed route, and a final decision is due in July.

North SPAR (Sammamish Plateau Access Road)

This is the year that the Sammamish Plateau gets a new crossroads at Issaquah-Pine Lake Road and Issaquah-Fall City Road. When the new connector – known as the North Sammamish Plateau Access Road (North SPAR) – is added to the intersection later this year, the improved traffic access promises to revolutionize travel to and from the large Plateau community.

Meanwhile, frustration over traffic congestion and road construction in this corridor has been very apparent in the communications that a number of residents have shared with my office. That is why I have made this project a priority for streamlining and creative solutions that will minimize disruptions. I applaud the willingness of King County's Department of Transportation and the contractors to adapt to the heavy traffic demands on this project, and I urge motorists to display patience in traversing this crossroads.

Recently, I met personally on site with officials and staff of the King County DOT to ensure traffic can flow as smoothly as possible during the major recon-



struction of this intersection. I have requested several considerations to ensure the pain for commuters is minimized, and I have insisted that delays be as short as possible.

An interim traffic flow plan ensures a northbound through lane on Issaquah-Fall City Road, which means afternoon traffic headed up to the Plateau can stay in the right-hand lane and continue directly through the intersection at all times without stopping. This "interim channelization" arrangement will be very similar to the westbound HOV lane on Northeast 56th Street past Pickering Place. The southbound lanes of Issaquah-Fall City Road will have both through lanes open for the morning commute, plus a third right-turn-only lane onto Issaquah-Pine Lake Road. This configuration will remain in place until the opening of the North SPAR, currently planned for August.

Progress can be painful, but I believe the results eventually will be worth it as the improved access enhances the quality of life for all of us.

RTID update

The Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) was created in 2002 to provide the Puget Sound region with a mechanism for funding projects to help solve the Puget Sound's transportation crisis. RTID allows the Pierce, King and Snohomish county councils to put a list of projects and taxes on the ballot for a vote of the people. The decisions concerning taxes and project lists are made by all three County Councils, and the money raised ultimately will be controlled by the same body.

The RTID Executive Board is currently considering a November 2003 vote.

The RTID approach to funding regional transportation solutions has something that Referendum 51 did not, — local control. By putting

the decision-making process in the hands of the Pierce, King and Snohomish county officials, we can assure that project priorities and funding decisions will be made wisely. RTID also will raise sufficient revenue to make a real difference in our traffic congestion.

As an alternate on the RTID Executive Board, I have worked closely with other county officials to put together a regional transportation package. During

April, dozens of people across the county have participated in a series of public forums I've co-hosted about the transportation proposals. Those participating in the discussion were especially interested in the

accountability provisions for the RTID transportation projects, including annual published performance audits of every project. If costs go 20 percent over the estimate, the project would be

halted, reworked and resubmitted to a vote of the people. This is an unprecedented level of accountability in a transportation proposal and represents a new way of doing business, in response to the concerns expressed by taxpayers. Public input received at the RTID forums during April will help prioritize the projects on the basis of regional importance.

In May, June and July, the King County Council will offer a series of public meetings with presentations about the transportation projects and tax packages that will be put to a vote of the people. The public is invited to participate in the following Eastside planning meeting:

RENTON AREA

Tuesday, April 29, 2003, 6–9 p.m.

Renton City Hall
1055 South Grady Way,
Renton

For more information, please refer to the RTID website at www.rtid.dst.wa.us



Unincorporated Area Councils

I would like to thank the many dedicated volunteers who serve on the two Unincorporated Area Councils in District 12. If you live in an unincorporated area and would like to get involved with providing advice and recommendations to the Metropolitan

King County Council, please attend your local Unincorporated Area Council meeting:

* Four Creeks UAC:
meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the East Renton Community Church. Contact Chair David

Rockabrand at streamli@ix.netcom.com.

* Greater Maple Valley UAC:
meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at King County Police Precinct #3 in Maple Valley. Contact Chair Dick Bonewits at richb2@msn.com.

Survey Results

I would like to thank all of the people who took the time to read, fill out and return the questionnaire enclosed in my previous newsletter distributed last December.

The opinions and comments collected from more than 500 surveys will provide guidance for my policy efforts throughout the year.

Transportation, land use and taxes continue to be issues of top concern in District 12. I thought you might be interested in the results of the informal, non-scientific poll.



Transportation Improvements (in order of priority):

With the failure of Refer-

endum 51 in the November election, we will need to seek other ways to reduce traffic congestion and improve transportation in the Puget Sound region. My efforts in 2003 will focus on the Regional Transportation Investment District in my role as an alternate on the executive board. RTID is compiling a regional transportation plan to benefit the residents of King, Snohomish and Pierce counties. Please help decide how our efforts should be directed by ranking your transportation priorities below, with 1 being the most important to you.



1. Add capacity to existing roads
2. Add bus service
3. Expand and add park & ride lots
4. Build new roads

Funding for transportation:

6-cent gas tax

Yes – 30.7 percent
No – 41.9 percent
Maybe – 27.4 percent

1-cent sales tax

Yes – 21 percent
No – 57.4 percent
Maybe – 21.6 percent

Tolling

Yes – 29.2 percent
No – 44 percent
Maybe – 26.8 percent



On-line Resources

- Parcel Viewer and iMap property information: www.metrokc.gov/gis/mapportal/index.htm
- Property Tax Information: webapp.metrokc.gov/KCTaxinfo
- Transit Trip Planner: tripplanner.metrokc.gov
- King County Comprehensive Plan: www.metrokc.gov/ddes/compplan
- Transportation Concurrency: www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/tp/concurr/conindex.htm

E-mail

If you would like to receive regular e-mail updates about upcoming legislation and King County activities in District 12, please call me at (206) 296-1012, or e-mail me at david.irons@metrokc.gov.



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Information for our community:

- Message from Councilmember Irons
- Critical Areas and Stormwater
- Transportation Updates
- Contribute your comments

District Days

This year, I am continuing my annual series of community meetings to talk personally with residents of Council District 12, bringing my mobile office to each city in the district for a two-day open house. I would like to invite anyone interested to stop by and give me their personal opinions on local issues, comment on county actions, or get more information. I depend on feedback from residents to help me make the best decisions for our communities.



Either I or my legislative aides will be available each day on a drop-in basis, or call to make a specific appointment. County forms, newsletters, maps, voter registration forms and other county information will be available at each session. If you cannot make one of those dates, you can contact me by

phone or by e-mail at (206) 296-1012 or david.iron@metrokc.gov.

Upcoming District Days events are scheduled for:

May 2-3

Black Diamond City Hall
25510 Lawson Street

May 30-31

Sammamish City Hall
486 228th Ave. NE

June 27-28

Maple Valley City Hall
22035 SE Wax Road

Meeting times are at:

- **Fridays** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Saturdays** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.